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Secretary Abraham
c/o Carol Hanlon
S&ER Products Manager
US Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
PO Box 30307 M/S 025
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0707

Dear Secretary Abraham:

I send these comments in response to the published Federal Register notice (66 FR 43850) concerning your recommendation to the President about the Yucca Mountain site for a repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. It is my opinion that the country must have a facility to handle these materials in a safe fashion and that the scientific data supports the choice of Yucca Mountain as the best location for those materials at this time. Thus, I encourage you to recommend to the President that the process continue and the country continues to develop the site. This is an important next step in that process and we need to continue along that path. It is very important that the Department start to live up to its obligations under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and move forward with the plans to accept these waste materials. Further inaction by the Department only unnecessarily delays the time when these materials are dealt with.

It is my opinion that the work done on the Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation and other reports developed by the Department of Energy provide sufficient basis for the decision to go forward with the development of the repository. I also believe that the site is very likely to meet any and all applicable radiation standards that are established by either the Environmental Protection Agency or the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I feel that the NRC's standards are adequate to protect the public over the short and long terms and the EPA's standards are unnecessarily conservative and may be too restrictive.

The scientific issues at Yucca Mountain have been adequately addressed in these studies. It is time to move forward. I hope that you also reach this conclusion and forward a positive recommendation soon.

Sincerely yours,



Andrew C. Klein
Department Head and
Member, USDOE Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee



OREGON
STATE
UNIVERSITY

130 Radiation Center
Corvallis, Oregon
97331-5902

Telephone
541-737-2343

Fax
541-737-0460

e-mail
nuc_engr@oe.orst.edu